

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5457
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
SAFETY OF MINE WORKERS
M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to ensure the foolproof safety for workers in mines and to achieve the ambitious goal of zero accident level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have issued any guidelines/directions to ensure the safety of mines workers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the goal of zero accident level in mines is likely to achieve?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) to (e): Mining is a hazardous occupation. Condition of the working area with respect to roof/sides keeps on changing as the excavation/drivages are extended into the new ground where the geo-mining conditions may be different.

Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The safety laws are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the mines Act, 1952, in case of default. Zero rate of accident in mines is very difficult to attain.

However, efforts are made to minimize accidents in mines through various initiatives by Directorate General of Mines Safety.

Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as:

- (a) Conference on Safety in mines,
- (b) Self-regulation by managements,
- (c) Workers' participation in safety management,
- (d) Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels,
- (e) Training of work persons,
- (f) Observance of safety weeks and Safety Campaigns,
- (g) National Safety Awards.